

8 Jun 06

Information Paper

SUBJECT: Fort Sill Motorcycle Safety Road Rally -- "Freedom's Thunder Safety Run" (FTSR)

1. **Purpose.** To provide information on Fort Sill's subject motorcycle safety road rally.

2. **Facts.**

a. Fort Sill conducted a motorcycle safety road rally on 25 May 06 to heighten motorcycle safety awareness and to kick off the Fort Sill Motorcycle Mentorship Program.

b. Led by MG Ralston, CG Fort Sill, 543 motorcycle riders from Fort Sill and the surrounding community participated in the 88-mile rally.

c. Preparations for the event included:

(1) An in-depth risk assessment that identified potential hazards and established appropriate control measures.

(2) Event sponsorship by local community merchants that provided advice and prizes for the event.

(3) CG directed attendance for all military and DoD civilian motorcycle riders at pre-rally safety briefings and presentations held prior to the start of the rally.

(4) Extensive advertising and pre-registration for the event. Riders paid a \$5 registration fee and each received long sleeved t-shirt and an event wristband that ensured easy identification for return access to the post.

(5) Motorcycle safety inspection checklists were sent to commanders post-wide with instructions to check every rider within their units for documentation and endorsements required for motorcycle operation.

(6) A pre-ride check for all participating motorcycle riders conducted on the day of the rally. Riders had to provide proof that they were properly licensed and insured, had completed a motorcycle riders' course, that they had valid on-post registration, and that each had the appropriate protective

clothing and equipment. During pre-ride checks, 86 Soldiers were identified that had not completed the motorcycle safety course.

d. Conduct of the road rally.

(1) The event began at the Fort Sill Polo Field with registration and pre-ride checks and safety displays. The Fort Sill Provost Marshal provided safety briefings on DoD and Fort Sill that included: motorcycle rules, conduct of the rally, road conditions and precautions, and what to expect at the stations along the way.

(2) MG Ralston concluded the pre-rally portion of the event and with a single cannon shot to signal the start of the road rally, lead the mass formation from the Polo Field along the rally route.

(3) The route selected included 3 planned stops. At each stop riders were asked 3 questions pertaining to motorcycle safety and maintenance. For each correct answer the rider received a raffle ticket for prizes donated by event sponsors.

(4) MG Ralston and the command group led the first leg of the 88-mile road rally course. The first leg of the rally consisted of a single staggered formation with a 2-second space cushion between motorcycles. Lawton Police Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and Military Police provided escort and assistance. After the first stop, riders proceeded on the route individually or in small groups.

(5) Experienced riders were identified and designated as ride captains. Ride captains were given yellow t-shirts for easy identification and dispersed through the formation to provide advice and assistance to the less experienced riders.

(6) Prizes and refreshments were offered at the conclusion of the road rally.

e. The event was enormously successful. With 543 riders participating, the event brought together young and old, veteran and novice, and reinforced the motorcycle mentorship program.

Ms. Watson/ATCS-S/5904

APPROVED BY _____